

Applicants: Richard J. Zeman and Joseph D. Etlinger
Serial No.: 09/611,652
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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Please cancel claims 21-31 without disclaimer or prejudice to applicants' right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a future continuation or divisional application.

Please amend claims 4 and 40, and add new claims 47-51 as set forth below.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A method of rehabilitation following spinal cord contusion injury or motor neuron degeneration, the method comprising administering to a mammalian patient with spinal cord contusion injury or motor neuron degeneration causing reduction of locomotor function and neuromuscular strength, a therapeutically effective amount of at least one β_2 adrenergic agonist to increase locomotor function and neuromuscular strength in the patient, wherein the effective amount of the β_2 adrenergic agonist is from about 0.5 to about 100 μg per kg of body weight.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the β_2 adrenergic agonist is selected from the group consisting of salmeterol, ractopamine, cimaterol, BRL-47672, terbutaline, fenterol, memproterenol, isoprenaline, MJ-9184-1, trimetoquinol, tetrahydropapaveroline, soterenol, salmefamol, rimiterol, QH-25, isoetharine, R-804, orciprenaline, quinterenol, sulfonterol, dobutamine, and isoproterenol and salts of the foregoing.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the β_2 adrenergic agonist is selected from the group consisting of salmeterol, ractopamine, cimaterol, BRL-47672, terbutaline,

Applicants: Richard J. Zeman and Joseph D. Etlinger
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fenterol, memproterenol and isoprenline and salts of the foregoing.

4. (Currently amended) A method of rehabilitation following spinal cord contusion injury or motor neuron degeneration, the method comprising administering to a mammalian patient with spinal cord contusion injury or motor neuron degeneration causing reduction of locomotor function and neuromuscular strength, a therapeutically effective amount of at least one β_2 adrenergic agonist to increase locomotor function and neuromuscular strength in the patient, wherein the β_2 adrenergic agonist comprises clenbuterol or a salt thereof and wherein the effective amount of the β_2 adrenergic agonist is from about 0.5 to about 100 μg per kg of body weight.

~~The method of claim 1, wherein the β_2 adrenergic agonist comprises clenbuterol or a salt thereof.~~

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the β_2 adrenergic agonist comprises salbutamol or a salt thereof.

6-7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 41 wherein the effective amount of salbutamol is from about 0.5 to about 1000 μg per kg of body weight.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 41, wherein the effective amount of salbutamol is greater than about 0.25 mg/day per kg body weight.

Applicants: Richard J. Zeman and Joseph D. Etlinger
Serial No.: 09/611,652
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11-36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously presented) A method of rehabilitation following spinal cord contusion injury to the lower thoracic spine, the method comprising administering to a mammalian patient with spinal cord contusion injury in the lower thoracic spine causing reduction of locomotor function and neuromuscular strength, a therapeutically effective amount of at least one β_2 adrenergic agonist to increase locomotor function and neuromuscular strength in the patient.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the β_2 adrenergic agonist is selected from the group consisting of salmeterol, ractopamine, cimaterol, BRL-47672, terbutaline, fenterol, memproterenol, isoprenline, MJ-9184-1, trimetoquinol, tetrahydropapaveroline, soterenol, salmefamol, rimiterol, QH-25, isoetharine, R-804, orciprenaline, quinterenol, sulfonterol, dobutamine, and isoproterenol and salts of the foregoing.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37 wherein the β_2 adrenergic agonist is selected from the group consisting of salmeterol, ractopamine, cimaterol, BRL-47672, terbutaline, fenterol, memproterenol and isoprenline and salts of the foregoing.

40. (Currently amended) A method of rehabilitation following spinal cord contusion injury to the lower thoracic spine, the method comprising administering to a mammalian patient with spinal cord contusion injury in the lower thoracic spine causing reduction of locomotor function and neuromuscular strength, a therapeutically effective

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Serial No.: 09/611,652
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amount of at least one β_2 adrenergic agonist to increase locomotor function and neuromuscular strength in the patient, wherein the β_2 adrenergic agonist comprises clenbuterol or a salt thereof. ~~The method of claim 37 wherein the β_2 adrenergic agonist comprises clenbuterol or a salt thereof.~~

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37 wherein the β_2 adrenergic agonist comprises salbutamol or a salt thereof.

42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the effective amount of the β_2 adrenergic agonist is from about 10 to about 100 μg per kg of body weight.

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the effective amount of the β_2 adrenergic agonist is about 40 μg per kg of body weight.

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37 wherein the effective amount of the β_2 adrenergic agonist is from about 0.5 to about 1000 μg per kg of body weight.

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40 wherein the effective amount of clenbuterol is from about 0.5 to about 1000 μg per kg of body weight.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein the effective amount of clenbuterol is greater than about 0.25 mg/day per kg body weight.

47. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the β_2 adrenergic agonist is effective to reduce injury-induced loss of spinal cord tissue.

Applicants: Richard J. Zeman and Joseph D. Etlinger
Serial No.: 09/611,652
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48. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the β_2 adrenergic agonist is effective to reduce injury-induced loss of spinal cord tissue.

49. (New) A method of rehabilitation following spinal cord contusion injury or motor neuron degeneration, the method comprising administering to a mammalian patient with spinal cord contusion injury or motor neuron degeneration causing reduction of locomotor function and neuromuscular strength, a therapeutically effective amount of at least one β_2 adrenergic agonist to reduce injury-induced loss of spinal cord tissue and to increase locomotor function and neuromuscular strength in the patient, wherein the effective amount of the β_2 adrenergic agonist is from about 0.5 to about 100 μg per kg of body weight.

50. (New) A method of rehabilitation following spinal cord contusion injury or motor neuron degeneration, the method comprising administering to a mammalian patient with spinal cord contusion injury or motor neuron degeneration causing reduction of locomotor function and neuromuscular strength, a therapeutically effective amount of at least one β_2 adrenergic agonist to increase locomotor function and neuromuscular strength in the patient, wherein the effective amount of the β_2 adrenergic agonist is from about 0.5 to about 100 μg per kg of body weight, and wherein the β_2 adrenergic agonist is selected from the group consisting of salmeterol, ractopamine, cimaterol, BRL-47672, terbutaline, fenterol, memproterenol, isoprenaline, MJ-9184-1, trimetoquinol, tetrahydropapaveroline, soterenol, salmefamol, rimiterol, QH-25, isoetharine, R-804, orciprenaline, quinterenol, sulfoneterol, dobutamine, and isoproterenol and salts of the foregoing.

Applicants: Richard J. Zeman and Joseph D. Etlinger
Serial No.: 09/611,652
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51. (New) A method of rehabilitation following spinal cord contusion injury to the lower thoracic spine, the method comprising administering to a mammalian patient with spinal cord contusion injury in the lower thoracic spine causing reduction of locomotor function and neuromuscular strength, a therapeutically effective amount of at least one β_2 adrenergic agonist to increase locomotor function and neuromuscular strength in the patient, wherein the β_2 adrenergic agonist is selected from the group consisting of salmeterol, ractopamine, cimaterol, BRL-47672, terbutaline, fenterol, memproterenol, isoprenaline, MJ-9184-1, trimetoquinol, tetrahydropapaveroline, soterenol, salmefamol, rimiterol, QH-25, isoetharine, R-804, orciprenaline, quinterenol, sulfonterol, dobutamine, and isoproterenol and salts of the foregoing.